

Sermon Discussion Questions

Resolution: Servant Leadership

Feb 15, 2020

John 13:1-20, Mark 10:45, Philippians 2:7, Matthew 23:11

Getting Started:

The quickest way to the top is to serve from the bottom.

Thinking of the people you know from family, friends, and co-workers, who exemplifies a servant heart? What does that look like in them?

Going Deeper:

The Picture of the Towel: Displays Humanity

Deemed with Authority: “*The father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God.*” John 13:3

Descends with Authority: “*He laid aside his outer garments...*” John 13:4

Principle: Servant Leadership is leveraging your position to make others feel prominent.

Our culture often schools us to believe that when we rise through our effort, or when we are promoted over others, it then entitles us to the privileges of having ‘arrived.’ We can begin to see ourselves as better than those below us. Yet, the Bible’s idea of leadership is to use our position to help raise others up and treat them as super important people.

What position has God entrusted to you? How are you using your position to raise others up? What might you start doing to grow in this area?

The Placement of the Towel: Demonstrates Humility

Defining Moment: "...and taking a towel, tied it around his waist." John 13:4

Desired Mindset: "Began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him." John 13:5

Principle: Servant Leadership is about posture not about power.

We often see leadership as standing over others, yet Jesus defined leadership as kneeling before others, doing the most demeaning and practical things to help them. In their time, washing someone's feet was the lowliest job a household servant could do. Everyone wore sandals, which were removed when entering a house, and the washing of feet removed all the road dust and other unmentionables from people's feet.

In your unique situation, what does a posture of 'washing feet' look like? How can you honor the people around you by meeting their basic needs and extending great consideration and kindness to them?

The Priority of the Towel: Delivers Honesty

Divine Expectation: "If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet." John 13:14

Divine Example: "For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you." John 13:15

Principle: Servant Leadership is choosing to practice what you prefer.

Everyone despises a hypocrite who tells you to live one way while they live another. But everyone loves a person of integrity, who applies the same expectations to their lives that they hope you will apply to yours.

What are some things you want/need to start doing as a person of integrity toward those who look up to you?

The Promise of the Towel: Dwells Honorably

Recognized by God: *"If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them."*
John 13:17

Received by Others: *"Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever receives the one I send receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me."* John 13:20

Principle: Servant Leadership will pay off long after the paycheck ends.

The Bible consistently teaches that to obey God brings blessings both in this life and the life to come. Servanthood isn't a romantic ideal, but a lifestyle choice for Christians. In a world dominated by selfishness, a life devoted to serving others as the hands and feet of Jesus will stand out and people will be drawn to ask you 'Why?'

What blessings have you experienced from serving others?

Takeaway:

- Do we seek to be significant or to give significance?
- Do we seek to be served to be served?
- Do we seek to be seen or to see?
- Do we seek to be a steward or selfish?

Prayer: